

DUNCAN CAMPBELL SWAN, M.Sc.
1907-1960

Duncan Campbell Swan died in London in December, 1960, at the end of a period of study leave during which he had paid attention to his special interests in the field of economic entomology, in particular to grape phylloxera, to mites of horticultural interest and to the biological control of St. John's wort leaf beetle (*Chrysomela hyperici*).

Mr. Swan was elected a member of the Society in 1932 soon after his arrival in South Australia to take up a position of assistant entomologist at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute under the late Professor James Davidson. His service to the Society included periods as Secretary (1940-1942), Vice-President and President (1947-1949), and a further period of five years as Councillor.

Mr. Swan was born and educated in Perth, Western Australia, and graduated with an Honours degree in Science in the University of that State. He was awarded a Hackett Research Studentship. He was awarded the degree of Master of Science by the University of Adelaide in 1935.

During the period 1942-1946 he served in the Pacific Area with the Medical Unit of the Royal Australian Air Force as entomologist, and in 1946 succeeded Professor Davidson as head of the Department of Entomology at the Waite Institute, with status from 1955, of Reader in the University of Adelaide.

This Department has had a threefold duty to the State of South Australia. The first has been to provide an advisory service in economic entomology to the State Department of Agriculture, the second to provide courses in entomology in the faculties of the University and the third to pursue research into the problems suggested by the deficiencies in knowledge revealed in the exercise of the other two functions.

Mr. Swan was an extremely competent biologist, and it is perhaps in the exercise of his wide knowledge of Australian fauna and flora that he excelled in his contribution to the first of these duties. Over the years he contributed a succession of papers to the Journal of Agriculture of South Australia, excellently illustrated by himself, on the insects of major economic importance to the State. His service with the Air Force gave him, in addition, a wide knowledge of medical entomology.

He chose to make his contribution to the third of these duties by becoming the Australian authority on the grape phylloxera, not only by his knowledge of the classical literature on this pest but by undertaking field studies in the infested areas in eastern Australia. Another field of knowledge to which he paid attention was the taxonomy and biology of the mites of horticultural importance.

His premature death has meant that much of this special knowledge has remained unpublished. However, his field data and his collections have been brought together and referred to the appropriate specialists with a view to ultimate publication in appropriate form.

J.A.P.
H.M.B.

1934. Dermatitis caused by a mite (*Pediculoides ventricosus*) and its occurrence in Australia. *Med. J. Aust.*, 1934, Nov. 3, 573.
A scarab beetle (*Aphodius tasmaniae* Hope) destructive to pastures in the south-east of South Australia. *J. Agr. S. Aust.*, 37, 1149-1156.

LIST OF LECTURES GIVEN AT MEETINGS DURING THE YEAR 1960-61

- Nov., 1960. DR. T. O. BROWNING: "Preliminary Observations on the Ecology of the Australian Kangaroo Tick *Ornithodoros gurneyi*".
- Apr., 1961. MR. J. R. HARRIS: "Salt in Turf Grasses".
- May, 1961. MR. F. F. THONEMANN: "Principles of Digital Computers".
- June, 1961. MR. S. B. HART: "The Likely Development of Metropolitan Adelaide, 1961-1991".

EXHIBITS

During the year, the following members exhibited material at Ordinary Meetings:

- DR. C. G. STEPHENS and MR. K. H. NORTHCOPE—exhibits of new soil maps.
- MR. L. W. PARKIN and MR. B. P. WEBB—tectonic maps.
- DR. B. DAILY—artificial diamond dust.

CHANGE OF RULES AND BY-LAWS

The following Rules and By-laws were amended at the Annual General Meeting in October, 1960, to read as follows:

Rule XI.

- (1) The financial year of the Society shall end on the last day of June in each year, and the Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of July or in such other month and upon a date and at a place to be appointed by the Council.

By-law II.

- (4) Nominations for officers and members of the Council, on the prescribed form, shall be lodged with the Secretary by 4 p.m. on the day of the June Council Meeting.

By-law VI.

- (1) The library shall be supervised by the Librarian. Subject to control by the Council, he shall be responsible for the receipt of publications, the distribution of the Society's transactions and the general care and maintenance of the library and the loan of books, (a) directly to members of the Society, (b) through the Commonwealth Inter-Library loan system, to members and other scientific and technical organizations, and to the general public.